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15 Attorney for Plaintiff

16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
17 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
18

19 JESSICA STAFFORD-WATKINS,

20 Plaintiff,

21 v.  
22

23 KILOLO KIJAKAZI, Acting  
24 Commissioner of Social Security,

25 Defendant.

No. 2:21-cv-0840 DB

STIPULATION AND ORDER FOR THE  
AWARD OF ATTORNEY FEES UNDER  
THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT  
(EAJA)  
28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)

26 TO THE HONORABLE DEBORAH BARNES, MAGISTRATE JUDGE OF  
27 THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT:  
28

1 The Parties through their undersigned counsel, subject to the Court's approval,  
2 stipulate that Plaintiff be awarded attorney fees in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND,  
3 TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE DOLLARS and 04/100 (\$5,269.04) under the Equal  
4 Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d). This amount represents  
5 compensation for all legal services rendered on behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in  
6 connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).

7 After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will  
8 consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to  
9 *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability  
10 to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset  
11 allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After  
12 the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are  
13 subject to any offset.

14 Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury  
15 determines that Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause  
16 the payment of fees, expenses and costs to be made directly to counsel, pursuant to the  
17 assignment executed by Plaintiff. Any payments made shall be delivered to Plaintiff's  
18 counsel, Meghan O. Lambert at 521 Cedar Way, Suite 200, Oakmont, Pennsylvania  
19 15139.

20 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for  
21 EAJA fees, and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of Defendant  
22 under the EAJA. Payment of FIVE THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE  
23 DOLLARS and 04/100 (\$5,269.04) in EAJA attorney fees. These payments shall  
24 constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Plaintiff and  
25 Plaintiff's attorney, Meghan O. Lambert, may have relating to EAJA attorney fees in  
26 connection with this action.  
27  
28

1 This award is without prejudice to the rights of Plaintiff's attorney to seek Social  
2 Security Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings clause  
3 provisions of the EAJA.

4 Respectfully submitted,

5  
6 Dated: November 14, 2022

/s/ Meghan O. Lambert

7 MEGHAN O. LAMBERT

8 Attorney for Plaintiff

9 Dated: November 14, 2022

PHILLIP A. TALBERT

10 Acting United States Attorney

11 MATHEW W. PILE, WSBA No. 32245

12 Associate General Counsel

Office of Program Litigation, Office 7

13 By: /s/ Andrea Banks\*

14 ANDREA BANKS

15 Special Assistant United States Attorney

16 Attorneys for Defendant

17 (\*Permission to use electronic signature  
18 obtained via email on November 14, 2022).

19  
20 **ORDER**

21 Pursuant to the parties' stipulation, IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 DATE: November 15, 2022

/s/ DEBORAH BARNES

23 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
24  
25  
26  
27  
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